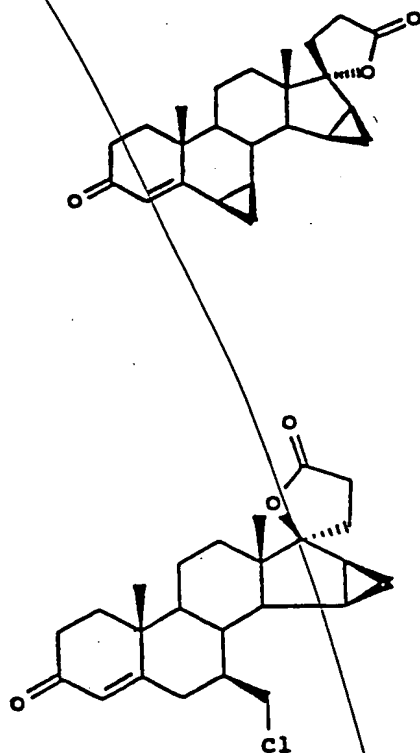


5. A preparation of $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo- 17α -pregn-4-ene-21, 17-carbolactone of claim 4, comprising less than 0.2% of the contaminants

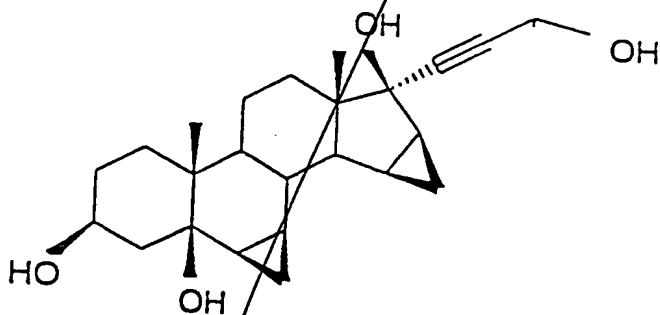
Sub
B2

and

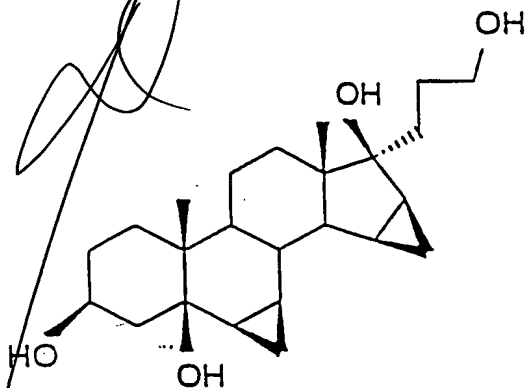


X

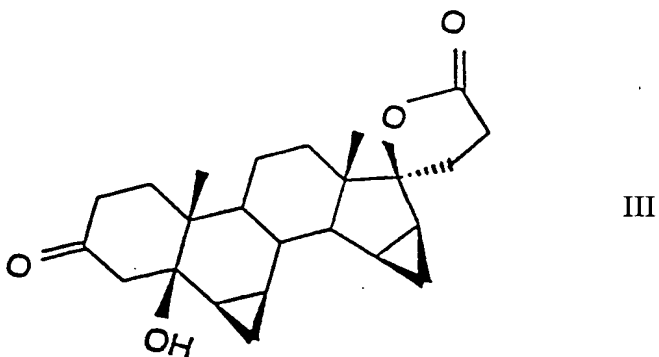
3 6 β ,7 β ; 15 β ,16 β -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 α -pregn-4-ene-21, 17-carbolactone of claim 4, made by a process comprising, catalytically hydrogenating 17 α -(3-hydroxy-1-propynyl)-6 β ,7 β ; 15 β ,16 β -dimethylene-5-androstane-3 β ,5,17 β -triol of Formula I



into 7 α -(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)-6 β ,7 β ; 15 β ,16 β -dimethylene-5 β -androstane-3 β ,5,17 β -triol, of Formula II

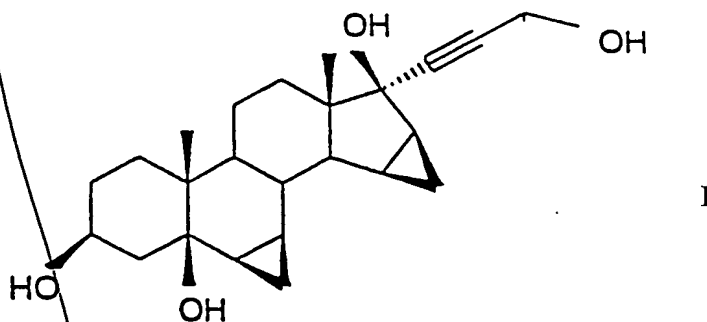


oxidizing the compound of Formula II in the presence of ruthenium salt to form 6 β ,7 β ; 15 β ,16 β -dimethylene-3 α -hydroxy-3-oxo-17 α -androstane-21,17-carbolactone of Formula III

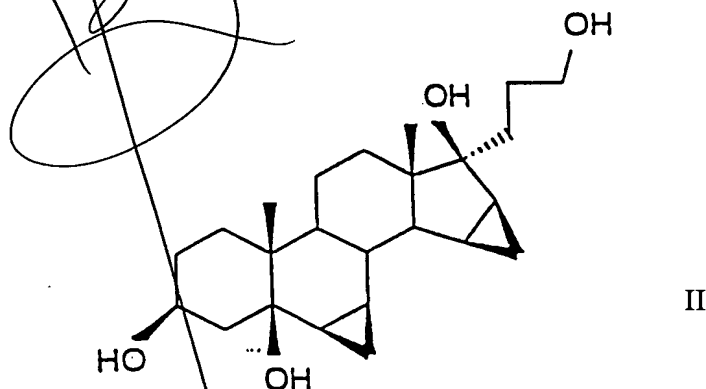


and dehydrating the latter.

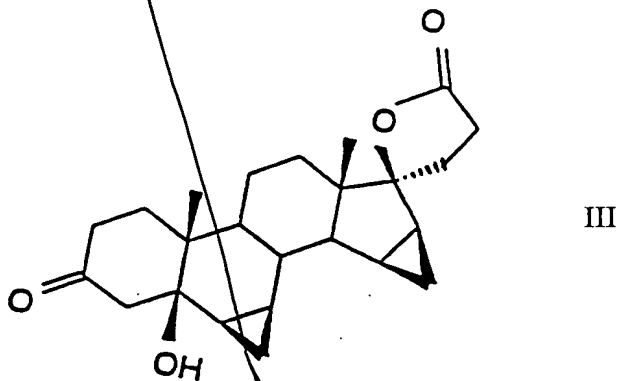
7. $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo- 17α -pregn-4-ene-21, 17-carbolactone of claim 5, made by a process comprising, catalytically hydrogenating 17α -(3-hydroxy-1-propynyl)- $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene-5-androstane- $3\beta,5,17\beta$ -triol of Formula I



into 7α -(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)- $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene- 5β -androstane- $3\beta,5,17\beta$ -triol, of Formula II



oxidizing the compound of Formula II in the presence of ruthenium salt to form $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene- 5α -hydroxy-3-oxo- 17α -androstane-21,17-carbolactone of Formula III



and dehydrating the latter.